

# COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers  
C. E. "Red" McDaniel City Services Center- Second Floor  
3111 Citizens Way, Columbus, GA 31906

March 11, 2025  
9:00 AM  
Regular Meeting

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### MAYOR'S AGENDA

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**PRESENT:** Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – Vacant*) and Councilors Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, Byron Hickey, Bruce Huff (arrived at 9:07 a.m.) and Toyia Tucker. City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore and Deputy Clerk of Council Tameka Colbert.

**The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet:** (1) Muscogee County Prison Programming and Services Presentation; (2) Master Plan and Parking Study Presentation; (3) 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Trail Connector Presentation; (4) Aquatics Update Presentation; (5) Infrastructure Update Presentation

**The following documents were distributed around the Council table:** (1) PA#1 Book Submitted; (2) PA#3 Documents Submitted – Resignation of Councilor Judy Thomas; (3) PA#5 Documents Submitted;

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Presiding

**INVOCATION:** Offered by Pastor Jimmy Elder, First Baptist Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Mayor Skip Henderson

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

7. **Resolution (052-25):** A resolution appointing the Clerk of Council for Columbus, Georgia for the remainder of a two-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to appoint Lindsey G. McLemore as Clerk of Council, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Councilor Huff requested his vote reflect in favor of this item after he arrived to the meeting; Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

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*NOTE: Councilor Huff arrived at 9:07 a.m.*

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8. **Resolution (053-25):** A resolution appointing the Deputy Clerk of Council for Columbus, Georgia for the remainder of a two-year term. Councilor Crabb made a motion to appoint Tameka Colbert as Deputy Clerk of Council, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

**MINUTES**

1. Approval of minutes for February 25, 2025, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

5. **Proclamation:** Catherine Biggers Trotter Day

**Receiving:** Catherine Trotter

**Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen** read the proclamation into the record proclaiming Tuesday, March 11, 2025, as *Catherine Biggers Trotter Day*, recognizing Ms. Biggers for her significant contributions to the community and her dedication to servant leadership.

2. **Proclamation:** PIE Week

**Receiving:** Ashley Becker, Columbus Chamber of Commerce

**Councilor Chambers** read the proclamation into the record proclaiming Tuesday, March 10-14, 2025, as *PIE Week*, recognizing the dedication of hundreds of organizations participating in Partners in Education, providing support to schools and students throughout the district every year.

3. **Proclamation:** Let’s Read Muscogee

**Receiving:** Brandy Tolbert, Literacy Alliance

**Councilor Huff** read the proclamation into the record proclaiming March 2025, as *Let’s Read Muscogee Month*, recognizing the Literacy Alliance organization for highlighting the importance of reading and learning and addressing the gaps in literacy services in the Chattahoochee Valley Region.

4. **Proclamation:** Intellectual and Development Disabilities Awareness

**Receiving:** Chloe Landreth, New Horizons

**Councilor Hickey** read the proclamation into the record proclaiming March 2025, as *Intellectual and Development Disabilities Awareness Month*, recognizing New Horizons Behavioral Health for their dedication to those in the community with developmental disabilities and bringing awareness to community.

6. **Proclamation:** Women’s History Month

**Receiving:** Councilor Toyia Tucker

**Councilor Tucker** read the proclamation into the record proclaiming March 2025, as *Women’s History Month*, recognizing the significant contributions and achievements of women throughout history.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

9. Programming and Services Update – Warden Herbert Walker, III, Muscogee County Prison

**Warden Herbert Walker, III, Muscogee County Prison**, approached the rostrum to provide an update on the programs and services offered by the Muscogee County Prison (MCP).

**Mr. Tim Harris**, a former inmate at MCP, came forward to share his testimony, highlighting the positive influence of the programs and services provided by MCP and how these programs and services impacted his life.

**Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge** approached the rostrum to respond to comments made by Councilor Tucker regarding the building that Warden Walker was interested in. She explained this building was donated by the city to PAWS in the past and at the time Warden Walker was interested in the property, the asking price was \$210,000.

**Councilor Byron Hickey** stated for the record that the building was donated by the city to PAWS for free, but what the city failed to do was to include a clause to allow the city the first right to acquire the building back.

**REFERRAL(S):**

**FOR THE MAYOR:**

- Consider adding 2-3 councilors to the committee tasked with selecting a City Manager. (*Request of Councilor Garrett*)

**CITY ATTORNEY’S AGENDA**

**ORDINANCES**

1. **Ordinance (25-011) - 2nd Reading-** An ordinance adopting a new Article XXIII of Chapter 2 of the Columbus Code to create a Sports & Entertainment Authority; and for other purposes. (Councilors Cogle, Davis, and Garrett) Councilor Davis made a motion to amend the ordinance to add a hockey representative to serve as a non-voting member on the Sports & Entertainment Authority, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present. Councilor Crabb made a motion to adopt the ordinance as amended, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried by a vote of seven-to-two, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Garrett, Hickey and Tucker voting yes and Councilors Chambers and Huff voting no. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

**Parks & Recreation Director Holli Browder** approached the rostrum to respond to a question from Councilor Huff, explaining Parks & Recreation took the Aquatics Center back over in March 2015.

2. **1st Reading-** REZN-01-25-0079: An ordinance amending the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for Columbus, Georgia to add certain property development regulations for single family detached homes in the Uptown (UPT) zoning district. ***No public comment.***

**Planning Director Will Johnson** approached the rostrum, explaining in 2008 single family housing was added to the UPT, but the details such as dimensions were not mentioned.

3. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance adopting amendments to Article II of Chapter 4 of the Columbus Code pertaining to the Recreation Advisory Board; repealing Article IV of Chapter 4 of the

Columbus Code pertaining to the Columbus Aquatics Commission; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) *No public comment.*

## **PUBLIC AGENDA**

1. Ms. Laura Lowe, Re: Book Dedication to the City of Columbus
2. Mrs. Audrey Holston-Palmore, Re: Update from January 7, 2025, on Heir Property Located in East Wynnton/Midtown
3. Mr. John Shinkle, Re: City Government
4. Ms. Madeline Burns, Re: City Management
5. Mrs. Karen Gaskins, Re: City Management
6. Mrs. Nancy Karnotski, Re: City Management
7. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Juvenile Crime & Murder Count
8. Mr. John Anker, Re: Implementing Positive Change
9. Mr. Wane Hailes, representing The Courier Eco Latino Newspaper, Re: City Management
10. Rev. Johnny Flakes, III, Re: Perspective on City Management
11. Mr. Danny Arencibia, Re: Perspective on the Management of the City

## **CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA**

### **1. Lease Agreement – 1148 Broadway– Synovus Bank ATM Site**

**Resolution (054-25):** A resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with Synovus Bank to lease space at 1148 Broadway, Columbus, Georgia 31901 for the operation of a walk-up automatic teller machine (atm). Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

### **2. Safe Neighborhoods Program Grant**

**Resolution (055-25):** A resolution to apply for and accept, if awarded, a grant of \$79,586.00, or as otherwise awarded, from the Middle District of Georgia's U.S. Attorney's Office Project Safe Neighborhoods Program Grant, with no local match requirement, and to amend the multi-governmental fund by the amount awarded. Funds will be utilized for the purchase of technology and surveillance equipment. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

### **ADD-ON RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution (056-25):** A resolution to accept a grant for equipment and training in the amount of \$37,752.00 or as otherwise awarded, from the Homeland Security Hazmat Grant Program. These

funds will be utilized for the purchase of new hazardous materials equipment and hazardous materials specific training courses. The type II team responds to hazardous materials emergencies in Muscogee County as well as surrounding communities to provide hazardous material containment to include chemical, radiological, and biological incidents. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT)*

**Resolution (057-25):** A resolution to accept a grant for equipment in the amount of \$63,462.00 or as otherwise awarded, from the Homeland Security Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) Grant Program. These funds will be utilized for the purchase of new rescue equipment and training. This team is formed to improve responses to heavy rescue as well as water rescue emergencies to the citizens of Columbus and surrounding counties. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT)*

### **3. PURCHASES**

A-1. One (1) Caterpillar D2 LGPAC Bulldozer for Public Works Department – Sourcewell Cooperative Purchase

**Resolution (058-25):** A resolution authorizing the purchase one (1) Caterpillar D2 LGPAC Bulldozer from Yancey-Cat, (Fortson, GA) in the amount of \$195,225.00. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #092222-CAT. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT)*

A-2. GMA Lease for One (1) Caterpillar D2 LGPAC Bulldozer for Public Works Department

**Resolution (059-25):** A resolution to authorize and direct the City Manager to execute one or more lease supplements for a lease or leases under the GMA Direct Leasing Program; to designate such leases as qualified tax-exempt obligations; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT)*

B-1. Two (2) Genesis Recycler Combination Sewer Cleaners for Public Works Department – Sourcewell Cooperative Purchase

**Resolution (060-25):** A resolution authorizing the purchase of two (2) Genesis Recycler Combination Sewer Cleaners from Jet-Vac Equipment Company, LLC (Atlanta, GA) for a unit price of \$967,371.88 and total cost of \$1,934,743.76. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #101221-SCA. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT)*

B-2. GMA Lease for Two (2) Genesis Recycler Combination Sewer Cleaners for Public Works Department

**Resolution (061-25):** A resolution to authorize and direct the City Manager to execute one or more lease supplements for a lease or leases under the GMA Direct Leasing Program; to designate such leases as qualified tax-exempt obligations; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes. Mayor

Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

C-1. One (1) 12-Yard Combination Sewer Cleaner for Public Works Department – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract

**Resolution (062-25):** A resolution authorizing the purchase one (1) 12 Yard Combination Sewer Cleaner from Jet-Vac Equipment Company, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$566,168.85. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #101221-SCA. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

C-2. GMA Lease for One (1) 12-Yard Combination Sewer Cleaner for Public Works Department

**Resolution (063-25):** A resolution to authorize and direct the City Manager to execute one or more lease supplements for a lease or leases under the gma direct leasing program; to designate such leases as qualified tax-exempt obligations; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

D-1. Three (3) Petersen TL-3 Grapple 30-Yard Trucks for Public Works Department – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

**Resolution (064-25):** A resolution authorizing the purchase three (3) Petersen TL-3 Grapple Trucks Group 30-yard from Environmental Products Group, (Lake Wales, FL) for a unit price of \$234,510.00, and total cost \$703,530.00. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #040621-P. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

D-2. GMA Lease for Three (3) Petersen TL-3 Grapple 30-Yard Trucks for Public Works Department

**Resolution (065-25):** A resolution to authorize and direct the city manager to execute one or more lease supplements for a lease or leases under the gma direct leasing program; to designate such leases as qualified tax-exempt obligations; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

E-1. Two (2) Petersen TL-3 Grapple 40-Yard Trucks for Public Works Department

**Resolution (066-25):** A resolution authorized to purchase two (2) Petersen TL-3 Grapple Trucks Group 40-yard from Environmental Products Group, (Lake Wales, FL) for a unit price of \$275,830.00, and a total cost of \$551,660.00. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #040621-P. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

E-2. GMA Lease for Two (2) Petersen TL-3 Grapple 40-Yard Trucks for Public Works Department

**Resolution (067-25):** A resolution to authorize and direct the City Manager to execute one or more lease supplements for a lease or leases under the GMA Direct Leasing Program; to designate such leases as qualified tax-exempt obligations; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT)*

F-1. One (1) 11-Yard Viper Rear Load Refuse Truck for Public Works Department – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract

**Resolution (068-25):** A resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) 11 Yard Viper Rear Load Refuse Truck from Sansom Equipment Company, (Scranton, IA) in the amount of \$256,497.00. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #110223-NWY. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT)*

F-2. GMA Lease for One (1) 11-Yard Viper Rear Load Refuse Truck for Public Works Department

**Resolution (069-25):** A resolution to authorize and direct the City Manager to execute one or more lease supplements for a lease or leases under the GMA Direct Leasing Program; to designate such leases as qualified tax-exempt obligations; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution contingent on completing the form to check the box indicating that there is an appropriation in the city’s current operating budget sufficient to pay the rentals and the Termination Payment during the Starting Term, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent for the vote. *(Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT)*

H. Amendment 8 for Space Planning and Programming and Design Professional Services for Columbus Consolidated Government Center Project – RFQ No. 20-0001

**Resolution (070-25):** A resolution authorizing the execution of Amendment 8 with the S/L/A/M Collaborative, Inc., (Orlando, FL), which is formerly CBRE/Heery, Inc., in the amount of \$294,000.00 for an emergency back-up generator at the new city hall. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote. *(Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT)*

**Inspections & Code Director Ryan Pruett** approached the rostrum, explaining the total cost of the Judicial Center project is \$207.5 million for design, construction, furniture and other expenses. The project will still be within budget with this amendment.

I. Various Equipment for the Civic Center – Annual Contract Purchase

**Resolution (071-25):** A resolution authorizing the purchase of 2 (two) forklifts, 2 (two) curtain motors, 1 (one) carpet extractor and fifty (50) folding chairs for the Civic Center from Grainger Industrial Supply (Columbus, GA) in the total amount of \$99,095.46. Council approval is required for these purchases due to funding via the Friends of Columbus Account for the Civic Center. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT)*

G. Muscogee County Jail Roof Project – RFB No. 25-0006

**Resolution (072-25):** A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with Integrated Building Services, Inc. (Marietta, GA) in the amount of \$464,600.00 for the Muscogee County Jail Roof Project. The recommended total includes the base bid of \$448,000.00 and an additional \$16,600.00 for Alternate 1 – Additive alternate to retrofit Section H with a new loose laid TPO roof system, in lieu of repairs to existing, and reinstall the ballast. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

**Councilor Charmaine Crabb** brought up correspondence she had with Keith Stevens from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), where he stated the landfill facility is currently out of compliance with the requirements. She expressed a desire to revisit the vote taken at the March 11, 2025, Council Meeting, where Council voted to utilize two (2) Reserve Days (\$1,327,768) to begin the landfill expansion.

**Mr. Monte Jones, Atlantic Coast Consulting, Inc.,** approached the rostrum to respond, stating that he does not believe Phase 4 is out of compliance, but it appears that some phases have been overfilled. The landfill staff have been checking to resolve the issue and be ready for approval to move forward with the expansion.

### **EMERGENCY PURCHASES**

1. Information Only: Exigent “Off the Lot” Vehicle Purchases – Resolution No. 354-24

#### **4. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Trade Center Parking Garage Update - Hayley Tillery, Executive Director, Columbus Convention & Trade Center, Scott P. Holmes, AIA, Principal, Hecht Burdeshaw Architect

**Executive Director Hayley Tillery, Columbus Convention & Trade Center** and **Mr. Scott P. Holmes, Principal, Hecht Burdeshaw Architects,** approached the rostrum to present information on the options found from the parking study, with the Trade Center Authority approving Option A, and the development of a master plan. The master plan would address the parking issues, incorporate green space, and for future hotel infrastructure.

- B. 5th Avenue Trail Connector Update - Mitchell Greenway, Stantec

**Mr. Mitchell Greenway, Stantec,** approached the rostrum to provide information on the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Trail, which will consist of 0.5 miles of multi-use paths to connect the 14<sup>th</sup> street Connector to the Linwood Connector.

**Executive Director Becca Zajac, Dragonfly Trail Network,** came forward to share their concerns on the west side conflicts with the safety issues and would recommend the east side option.

Councilor Cogle made a motion to install a trail to connect the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Connector to the Linwood Connector on the east side of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

C. Pool Update - Holli Browder, Director, Parks & Recreation

**Parks & Recreation Director Holli Browder** approached the rostrum to provide a presentation on the city pools and splash pads, with the pool opening date being May 28, 2025. The struggle to recruit lifeguards was addressed with information being provided on the difference in pay of other municipalities, with CCG being one of the lowest.

Councilor Cogle made a motion to increase the Parks & Recreation budget by \$177,070.79 to increase the wages of aquatic personnel as proposed, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT)

D. Infrastructure Update - Ryan Pruett, Director, Inspections & Code, Will Johnson, Director, Planning, and Vance Beck, Director, Engineering

**Engineering Director Vance Beck** and **Planning Director Will Johnson** came forward to provide a presentation with an update on various road projects and **Inspections & Code Director Ryan Pruett** providing an update on various infrastructure projects.

## **CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA**

### **ENCLOSURES - INFORMATION ONLY**

1. Upcoming Board Appointment(s) – Employees Benefits Committee (*Council Appointments; Selection by Public Safety Employees; Selection by General Government Employees*)
2. Upcoming Board Appointment(s) – Housing Authority of Columbus (*Mayor's Appointment*)

### **ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED**

3. **RESOLUTION (073-25)** – A resolution approving an Honorary Designation request to rename the Public Safety Building in honor of Former Mayor and Columbus Police Chief William “Jim” Wetherington, Sr. (*The Board of Honor met on March 6, 2025, to ratify Council's action to approve on January 28, 2025.*) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)
4. **RESOLUTION (074-25)** – A resolution approving an Honorary Designation request to name the future Judicial Center in honor of the Honorable John D. Allen. (*The Board of Honor met on March 6, 2025, and recommends approval.*) Councilor Hickey made a motion to approve the resolution, second by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)
5. **RESOLUTION (075-25)** – A resolution approving an Honorary Street Designation Application requesting signage to be placed at the intersecting streets of St. Mary's Road and Longwood Lane in honor of Angiela “Angie” Tanzie. (*The Board of Honor met on March 6, 2025, to ratify Council's action to approve on February 25, 2025.*) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

6. RESOLUTION – A resolution excusing Councilor Judy Thomas from the March 11, 2025, Council Meeting. *(This resolution was withdrawn by the Clerk of Council)*
7. Letter from the Medical Center Hospital Authority advising that the authority has selected James Allen McMullen to fill the unexpired term of Rick McKnight. *(The Council may confirm this selection.)* Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT)*

8. **Minutes of the following boards:**

Audit Committee, February 5, 2025

Board of Tax Assessors, #06-25

Convention & Visitors Board of Commissioners, January 15, 2025

Councilor Davis made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT)*

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED**

9. **MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS – ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**

A. **BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:**

A nominee for the seat of Renee Sturkie *(Eligible to succeed – Not interested in serving)* for a term expiring on March 24, 2025, on the Building Authority of Columbus. *(Mayor’s Appointment)*. There were none.

B. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:**

A nominee for the seat of Benjamin Link *(Eligible to succeed)* for the term expiring on the March 25, 2025, on the Community Development Advisory Council *(Mayor’s Appointment)*. There were none.

10. **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:**

A. **BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:** Shaun Roberts was nominated to serve another term. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen’s nominee)* Term expires: March 31, 2028. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT)*

B. **BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:** Tyler R. Martindill was nominated to serve another term. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen’s nominee)* Term expires: March 24, 2027. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT)*

**11. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – VOTE TABULATION:**

**A. BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:**

A nominee for the seat of Doug Jefcoat (*Resigned*) for a term expiring on March 31, 2027, on the Board of Zoning Appeals (*Council's Appointment*). Clerk of Council McLemore stated Councilor Crabb nominated Ernie Smallman and Councilor Huff nominated Zarome Lakey to fill the unexpired term of Doug Jefcoat. A vote tabulation found six (6) votes in favor of Ernie Smallman (Chambers, Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Hickey, and Tucker) and two (2) votes in favor of Zarome Lakey (Allen and Huff). Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to confirm Ernie Smallman, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

**12. COUNCIL'S APPOINTMENTS – ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**

**A. CIVIC CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:**

A nominee for the seat of Charles E. Huff, Jr. (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on March 1, 2025, on the Civic Center Advisory Board. (*District 1 – Hickey*). Councilor Hickey renominated Charles E. Huff, Jr. to serve another term. Councilor Tucker made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

A nominee for the seat of Gregory Blue (*Eligible to succeed – Interested in serving*) for a term expiring on March 1, 2025, on the Civic Center Advisory Board. (*District 3 – Huff*). Councilor Huff renominated Gregory Blue to serve another term. Councilor Tucker made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

A nominee for the seat of Johnson Trawick (*Eligible to succeed – Not interested in serving*) for a term expiring on March 1, 2025, on the Civic Center Advisory Board. (*District 8 – Garrett*). There were none.

**13. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS WOULD BE LISTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING:**

**A. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CULTURAL LIAISON ENCOUNTERS (CIRCLE):**

A nominee for the seat of Samantha Wooden (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on March 1, 2025, on the Commission on International Relations and Cultural Liaison Encounters. (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

**B. CRIME PREVENTION BOARD:**

A nominee for the seat of Marcus Gibson (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on March 31, 2025, as the Senatorial District 15 Representative on the Crime Prevention Board (*Council's Appointment*). Clerk of Council McLemore stated Mayor Pro Tem Allen is nominating Richard Kelly to fill the seat of Marcus Gibson.

A nominee for the seat of Lane Jimmerson (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on March 31, 2025, on the Crime Prevention Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

**C. PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION:**

A nominee for the seat of Dr. Xavier McCaskey (*Not Eligible to Succeed*) for a term expiring on March 31, 2025, on the Planning Advisory Commission (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Huff nominated Zarome Lakey to fill the seat of Dr. Xavier McCaskey.

A nominee for the seat of Ralph King (*Not Eligible to Succeed*) for a term expiring on March 31, 2025, on the Planning Advisory Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Larry Derby (*Not Eligible to Succeed*) for a term expiring on March 31, 2025, on the Planning Advisory Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

**D. UPTOWN FACADE BOARD:**

A nominee for the seat of James Lewis (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expired on October 31, 2024, as a Uptown Business Improvement District Representative on the Uptown Facade Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Hannah Israel (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expired on October 31, 2024, as a Uptown Business Improvement District Representative on the Uptown Facade Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

**E. VALLEY PARTNERSHIP JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:**

A nominee for the seat of Monte Galbraith (*Resigned*) for a term that expired on June 30, 2025, on the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority (*Council's Appointment*). Clerk of Council McLemore stated Councilor Crabb is nominating Ben Moser to fill the unexpired term of Monte Galbraith.

**PUBLIC AGENDA (continued):**

2. Mrs. Audrey Holston-Palmore, Re: Update from January 7, 2025, on Heir Property Located in East Wynnton/Midtown.
4. Ms. Madeline Burns, Re: City Management.
10. Rev. Johnny Flakes, III, Re: Perspective on City Management.

**CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 9 (AT-LARGE) APPOINTMENT:**

Councilor Hickey made a motion to appoint John Anker to fill the vacant seat for Council District 9 (At-Large), seconded by Councilor Crabb and after discussions, the motion was carried by a six-to-three vote, with Councilors Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Garrett, Hickey, and Tucker voting in favor, and Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Chambers and Huff voting in opposition.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of real estate acquisition and litigation as requested by City Attorney Fay earlier in the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*) and the time being 2:29 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 3:02 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel and real estate acquisition; however, there were no votes taken.

**ADD-ON RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution (076-25):** A resolution authorizing a settlement payment of \$50,000 to settle all damage claims of Angel King stemming from the incident which occurred on March 27, 2023, and to execute all appropriate settlement documents to this effect. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Chambers being absent for the vote. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

**Resolution (077-25):** A resolution Authorizing a settlement payment of \$100,000 to settle all damage claims of Janie Murray stemming from the incident which occurred on September 7, 2022, and to execute all appropriate settlement documents to this effect. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Chambers being absent for the vote. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

**CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 9 (AT-LARGE) APPOINTMENT (continued):**

Councilor Hickey made a motion to allow John Anker to speak seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Chambers being absent for the vote. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

Mr. John Anker approached the rostrum to speak on his appointment to serve as the District 9 (At-Large) Councilor, sharing his eagerness to work with the other members of Council in serving the citizens.

**BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:**

After a discussion, Councilor Davis made a motion to appoint Mayor Pro Tem Allen as the Budget Review Committee Chairman, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Chambers being absent for the vote. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*)

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Allen entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Garrett to adjourn the March 11, 2025, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with

Councilor Chambers being absent for the vote, and the time being 3:10 p.m. (*Council District 9 At-Large Seat – VACANT*),

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Lindsey G. McLemore  
Clerk of Council  
Council of Columbus, Georgia